

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00296 171246Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12
/091 W

-----030078 171249Z /53

O R 171100Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 225
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LOGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0296

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: RH, PDEV, PINT
SUBJ: RHODESIA: SITHOLE DECLARES SUPPORT FOR
INTERNAL TALKS AND CRITICIZED PF

REF: PRETORIA 0270

1. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT SITHOLE ISSUED A STATE ENT
ON JANUARY 16 IN WHICH HE CRITICIZED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT(PF)
AND DECLARED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL TALKS. ACCORDING TO
THE PRESS, SITHOLE SAID THAT THE PF'S " PATHOLOGICAL FEAR" OF
PRE-INDEPENDENCE ELECTIONS SHOWED " BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT
THE
ALLIANCE IS NOT IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE,
BUT IN THOSE OF FOREIGNERS. UNLESS THE PF CHANGES ITS
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 00296 171246Z

PRESENT ATTITUDE OF GOING AGAINST THE POPULAR DEMAND OF
THE PEOPLE FOR A GENUINE SETTLEMENT, IT IS DIGGING ITS OWN
GRAVE IN WHICH WE WILL MAKE SURE IT IS SECURELY BURIED."
THE PF " WILL BE RUTHLESSLY DEALT WITH" IF
IT TRIES TO DISRUPT THE TALKS. SITHOLE WANTED THE PF AND
OUTSIDERS TO KNOW THAT HE WAS " A PROUD AND DETERMINED FIFH-
TER FOR THE FIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLE" AND THAT HE SUPPORTED THE CURRENT

WITH ALL MY HEART, SOUTL AND MIND... IF THE PF AND THEIR FOREIGN SUPPORTERS THINK THEY CAN THREATEN ME TO WITHDRAW FROM THE PRESENT INTERNAL TALKS, THEY ARE TERRIBLY MISTAKEN... ALL THOSE WHO PRESENTLY THREATEN US, WHO LIKE TO DICTATE TO US, AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO FASTEN AROUND OUR NECKS THE MASSIVELY REJECTED LEADERSHIP OF THE PF, WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO TAKE NOTE THAT WE SHALL BROOK NO SUCH NONSENSE ONCE WE HAVE GOT A GENUINE SETTLEMENT FOR OUR COUNTRY." SITHOLE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE UK, THE U.S. THE UN AND THE OAU WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RECOGNIZE A GENUINE SETTLEMENT" UNLESS THEY HAD BECOME MORALLY BANKRUPT BEYOND REDEMPTION."

2. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT QUOTES " NATIONALIST SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT THE THREE BLACK LEADERS HAVE AGREED THAT ENTRENCHED LEGISLATION SHOULD REQUIRE A UNANIMOUS BLACK VOTE, I.E. 72, BUT ONLY ONE WHITE VOTE INSTEAD OF THE SIX AS HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY SMITH (PRETORIA 0212). REPORTS SAID NO DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS HAD BEEN SET AS EACH DELEGATION WAS REPORTEDLY TAKING A " STUDY BREAK" TO LOOK AT THE PROPOSALS. BOWDLER

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